

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A cardiomyopathy therapeutic agent that contains hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) and gelatin hydrogel, and wherein the gelatin hydrogel is selected such that it gradually releases HGF ~~continued~~ for about 4 weeks when used.

2. (Original) A cardiomyopathy therapeutic agent according to claim 1 wherein the gelatin has the following physical properties:

(1) an acidic gelatin obtained from collagen by alkaline hydrolysis treatment;

(2) molecular weight under non-reducing conditions of SDS-PAGE of about 100,000 to about 200,000 daltons; and;

(3) zeta potential in aqueous solution of about -15 to about -020 mV.

3. – 10. (Canceled)

11. (New) A method of treating cardiomyopathy comprising:

administering to a subject an effective amount of a cardiomyopathy therapeutic agent of claim 1.

12. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the gelatin has the following physical properties:

(1) an acidic gelatin obtained from collagen by alkaline hydrolysis treatment;

(2) molecular weight under non-reducing conditions of SDS-PAGE of about 100,000 to about 200,000 daltons; and;

(3) zeta potential in aqueous solution of about -15 to about -020 mV.

13. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the cardiomyopathy is dilation cardiomyopathy.

14. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the cardiomyopathy is hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

15. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the cardiomyopathy is idiopathic cardiomyopathy, primary cardiomyopathy or secondary cardiomyopathy.

16. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the cardiomyopathy is dilation cardiomyopathy.

17. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the cardiomyopathy is hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

18. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the cardiomyopathy is idiopathic cardiomyopathy, primary cardiomyopathy or secondary cardiomyopathy.